

# Ocean Pollution

By Alejandro Ramirez

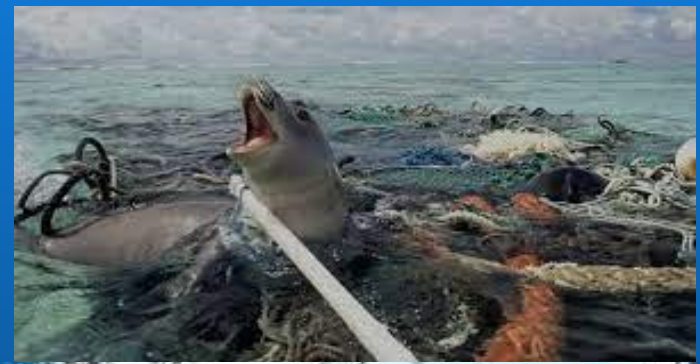
# What exactly is Ocean Pollution?

Well, ocean pollution is exactly what it sounds like, us humans are filling our oceans with pollution. The pollution that we are filling our ocean with varies from things like straws and cigarettes, to things like plastic bags and glass beverage bottle. Multiple types of harmful objects and chemicals enter the ocean from sewage, rivers and drainages. If this is not already sort of uneasy, 8 million tons of plastic enter our ocean every year. There is approximately 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic waste in our oceans.



# Is Ocean Pollution Really That Bad?

Yes, Ocean Pollution is extremely harmful and bad for animals, humans and the ocean as a whole. Some animals that are dying and being harmed by our wrongdoings are sea turtles, seabirds, seals, sea lions, fish, whales and dolphins. While sea turtles are the most famous for being affected by ocean pollution, multiple sea animals are being harmed the second you are reading this. If your asking why I mentioned that it is also harmful to humans, well, the plastic smaller animals eat move up the food chain eventually getting to the food that us humans eat, therefore all the plastic and harmful chemicals that sea animals are being harmed by are also going into our digestive system. Not only this but it also affects us humans due to the fact that, toxic chemicals are being released into the ocean, and when humans are exposed to those toxic chemicals for long periods of time, it can lead to some very serious health problems, including hormonal issues, damage to our nervous system and kidneys, and even reproductive issues.



# What Causes All This Ocean Pollution?

Ocean pollution is caused by multiple things, all of which, caused by humans. Something that causes ocean pollution is the dumping of sewage, the reason behind why we dump sewage into the ocean is because it is basically the cheapest method to dispose of sewage. All of this sewage can contain lethal substances, this can have very serious/dangerous effects on marine life. Another cause of ocean pollution is industrial chemicals, waste from industries like fossil fuel, plastic manufacturing, agro chemicals and pharmaceuticals contain very harmful toxins that enter the ocean which then enter the bodies of sea animals. Some of the harmful toxins being mercury, DDT, phthalates and Bisphenol-A. One more thing that causes ocean pollution is, Oil spills, oil spills can kill very helpful marine microorganisms that make oxygen, this then messes with the food chain and prevents reproduction and migration, leading to the death of many fish.



# Why Did I Choose This Topic?

The reason I chose the topic about ocean pollution is mostly because I have been writing and learning about ocean pollution since I was in 4th grade, and every school year I see that the statistics keep going up and up, and everything I read about this topic just says it keeps getting worse. Therefore, I can't see myself standing idle while all of this is happening, and not everyone knows how dangerous it is and how much damage it is actually doing to our wellbeing and the wellbeing of all marine life and their environment. It is something that I genuinely want to raise awareness of and although I might not be making the biggest change, I am doing something.



# What Companies/Organizations Are Helping?

Some companies/organizations that are helping the global issue of ocean pollution are listed below.

- [Ocean Conservancy](#)
- [Sea Shepherd](#)
- [5 Gyres](#)
- [OpSociety](#)
- [Dolphin Project](#)



# How Can We Prevent Ocean Pollution

Some things we can do to help to prevent ocean pollution and try to protect marine life and us humans as well are things like, raising awareness like I am trying to do, this can vary from making a social media page, making an essay, a presentation, or even put up flyers in your neighborhood. We can also participate in beach cleanups if we have the time to. Some small things we can do that are actually very helpful is, reduce our use of single-use plastic, recycle, and last but not least try supporting organizations that are trying to stop/prevent ocean pollution.

